

NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests Thunder Basin National Grassland

Date: Sept. 24, 2010 Contact: Diann Ritschard

970-870-2187

Phil Cruz named Forest Supervisor for Medicine Bow-Routt NFs and Thunder Basin National Grassland

(Laramie, Wyo.) Sept. 24 – Regional Forester Rick Cables announced today the selection of Phil Cruz as Forest Supervisor for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland. "The forests and grasslands in the Rocky Mountain Region host some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. The diversity of ecosystems and people who live, work, play and visit these national treasures require visionary leadership," said Cables. "Phil Cruz rose to the top among a number of stellar applicants and will represent the Forest Service very well in the local communities and throughout the Region."

The Medicine Bow and Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland covering about 3.1 million acres from north central Colorado to central and northeastern Wyoming. Phil has served as the Deputy Forest Supervisor for the past two years in Laramie, where he resides with his wife, LeAnn.

"I'm looking forward to the continuing challenges and opportunities in managing these national forests and grasslands, Cruz said. "We will continue our emphasis in working with local communities and partners."

A Forest Service career of 28 years has allowed Phil to work in a variety of capacities on forests in Oregon and New Mexico. Phil graduated from Oregon State University in 1982 as a forester.

Cruz replaces Mary Peterson who retired in May after serving as forest supervisor for nine years.